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THE MULE DEER.

BY W. J. HAYS.

THE Mule Deer* (Plate 3) was first mentioned by Lewis and Clark in the report of their journey up the Missouri River. They gave it the name of Mule Deer on account of the length of its ears; the length of the ear, however, varies with individuals. I have one head which I procured on the Upper Missouri, the ears of which measure nine inches from the head, and one from the Platte with ears only seven inches in length; these measurements are from adult males. The description of Mr. Say gives ten inches. Mr. Say first described it and gave it the name of *Cervus macrotis*.

This deer is much coarser and less graceful than the *Cervus Virginianus*; its limbs are thicker and longer, although it does not vary much in weight from the largest of the common deer found in the Adirondack Mountains.

The color in summer is a dull grayish brown, and in winter a silvery gray on the body, a line of black on the back and on the breast between the fore legs; the legs are a bright brownish yellow, the upper part of the inside white. The forehead is covered with dark brown hair extending down to a line a little below the eyes. The upper lip and chin are white; there is a band of dark brown running into black, extending from the nostril to the edge of the upper lip. The black band is not so well defined on the lower jaw as in the common deer. The inside of the thighs up to the tail is white; there is also a slight indication of white under the neck. The belly is a yellowish brown, almost as bright as

* *Synonymes*.—Black-tailed or Mule Deer, Lewis and Clark. *Cervus auritus*, War-
den's United States, vol. I, p. 245. Cerf Mullet, Desmarest, Mammalogie, p. 43. Jump-
ing Deer, Umfreville, Hudson's Bay, p. 164. Great-eared Deer, Griffith's Animal King-
dom, vol. IV, p. 133. *Cervus macrotis* Say, Long's Ex., vol. II, p. 254. *Cervus macrotis*,
Harlan's Fauna, p. 243. *Cervus macrotus* Sabine, Franklin's Journey, p. 667. *Cervus*
macrotis, Goodman's Natural History, vol. IV, p. 133. *Cervus macrotis* Peale, Philadel-
phia Advocate of Science, August, 1834.



HAYS ON THE MULE DEER.

the color on the legs. The tail is seven inches in length, round, and covered with short white hair, like the tail of a pointer dog; the extreme tip, for about an inch, has black hair of about two inches in length. The tail is carried pendant, and not erect, in running.

The metatarsal gland (which in the common deer is about an inch long) is six inches in length and fringed with hair two inches in length. The ears have a line of brownish black on the edge, and are lined with long whitish hair. The horns spread wider, some measuring twenty-four inches between the tips in front, but otherwise have the general form of those of the common deer, but the points are bifurcated; and sometimes have as many as three and four branches. The hoofs are black, and not so sharp or pointed as the common deer, resembling more in form the hoofs of the Wapiti.

This description is made from specimens in my possession and from those that I have seen on the Plains, and differs somewhat from that of Prof. Baird. I am inclined to think that his description of the hoof was made from a specimen that had become dry and contracted at the base, or else of a young animal.

This deer is found from the north of New Mexico to the Saskatchewan, and from the Missouri to the Cascade Mountains. Its flesh is very fine eating, esteemed by many superior to that of the common deer.

DIMENSIONS.

	ft.	in.		in.
Total length from tip of nose			Length of ear,	9
to tip of tail, . . .	6	1	Width, " . . .	5
Height at shoulder, . .	3	2	Length of tail, . . .	7
" top of pelvis, . . .	3	6	" suborbital sinus, .	1
Girth behind shoulder, .	3	4	" metatarsal gland, .	6
Girth of neck, . . .	1	10	" hair on metatarsal	
Length of fore leg from end			gland,	2
of hoof to olecranon, .	2	0	Length of fore hoof, .	2½
Length of hind leg from hoof			" hind hoof, . . .	2¼
to patella,	2	7	Greatest width of fore hoof,	1¾
Length of face,		10	" " hind hoof, . .	1¾
Width between orbits, .		5	Length of false hoof, .	1